

Christian Life Column.

THE SHORE OF ETERNITY.

Alone! to land upon that shore
With no one sight that they have seen
before,
Things of a different hue,
And the sounds all anew,
And fragrance so sweet the soul may
faint.

Alone! O that first hour of being a
saint!
Alone! No. God hath been there
long before,
Eternally hath waited on that shore
For us who were to come
To our eternal home;
And he hath taught his angels to pre-
pare
In what way we are to be welcomed
there.

Alone! The God we trust is on that
shore,
The faithful One whom we have trusted
more
In trials and in woes
Than we have trusted those
On whom we leaned most in our earth-
ly strife—
O we shall trust him more in that new
life.

So not alone we land upon that shore;
'Twill be as though we had been there
before;

We shall meet more we know
Than we can meet below.
And find our rest like some returning
dove,
And be at home at once with our eter-
nal Love! —F. W. Faber.

INCENSE AND PRAYER.

In the inner court of the tabernacle
three sacred articles were appointed
to be set—in the center an altar on
which incense was burned, and on
either side of it a table on which twelve
cakes of bread were laid and a great
lamp stand with seven lights. Each
of these pieces of sacred furniture
symbolized a side of the religious life,
and, taken together, they suggest a
beautiful conception of it, which is as
imperative and as vital to-day as of
old. What does that altar of incense
say to us? Incense is a symbol of
prayer, as the psalmist had learned
when he said, "Let my prayer be di-
rected before Thee as incense," using
the technical word for laying a sacrifice
on the altar. In Isaiah's vision of
Israel's true King, the "house was
filled with smoke" when the seraphim
sang their "Holy, holy, holy Lord God
Almighty." What is the point of com-
parison between symbol and reality?
How was the fragrance of the incense
set free to rise in wreaths of smoke?
By being kindled. Whence was it
kindled? By coals from the altar of
sacrifice. "Which things are an alle-
gory" and mean that cold prayer is
no prayer, that when a spirit is
touched with the divine fire it will ex-
hale upward to God, and be sweet to
Him. The cold stick of incense had
neither fragrance nor power to rise,
and could not but ascend in fragrant
wreaths when winged by fire. The
soul that is touched to flame is vital-
ized and its aspirations and desires go
up to God.

There were specific directions for
insuring the perpetuity of the incense
burning. Twice a day the ministering
priest carried a censurial to be laid on
the altar. Kindled in the morning
from the altar of sacrifice, it glowed
and glimmered all day—perhaps much
of it white ashes, but with a little
spark at its heart. In the evening it
was renewed, and in like manner smol-
dered all night. If the incense of our
prayer is to glow all day, it has to be
renewed and rekindled daily. No man
will have reverence diffused through
his life, unless he has a concentrated
reservoir of worship in the background
of his life. We plead for no mechan-
ical observance of times of prayer,
but still there must be the frequent re-
currence of special seasons of devo-
tion to run like a special thread
through our lives.—Alexander Mc
Laren, D. D.

MORE THAN MERE BIBLE READ-
ING.

Looking in the Bible for plain direc-
tions as to duty may show a good
spirit, but a mistaken method. We
ought to do our duty, and, in order to
do our duty, we need to know it. But
it requires more than an acquaintance
with the mere letter of the Bible text
to understand and appreciate the spirit
of the Bible teachings. The spirit of
those teachings can be learned only in
the service of Christ, and that service
is to be gained in other ways than in
reading the letter of the Bible text.
Lord, give us the spirit to understand,
and the desire to enter into the true
service of Christ, as we read, and as
we live, his fullest teachings!—Ex.

AIMING AT PERFECTION.

It is only by trying to better our
best that we can bring up our average.
The head of the weather bureau does
not expect the forecasts of his depart-
ment to be always right, but he intends
them to be always right. To lose sight
of the ideal is to lower the real, and
"good enough" is more than a step on
the road to "too bad."—Sunday School
Times.

Little Folks' Column.

A CURIOUS COMMON ANIMAL.

The naturalist considers every liv-
ing being an animal, whether a bird,
an insect, quadruped or reptile.
Everybody knows the earthworm.
Who has not seen it in the flower pots
of our window gardens or in the out-
door gardens? Indeed there are few who
have not angled with worms for bait.
Did you ever wonder that fish "bite"
so readily at worms? It is well known
to the fisherman that fish only take as
bait such food as they have been ac-
customed to, such as minnows, crabs
or frogs, so how is it that fish recog-
nize a dainty morsel in the earthworm?
The earthworm belongs to the order
Oligochaeta, which also includes a
number of fresh-water forms which
have been distinguished as *Limicolae*
from the earthworm or *Terricolae*.
There are, however, no structural pec-
uliarities to distinguish the terrestrial
from the aquatic worms, so fish do not
know the difference and eat one quite
as greedily as the other.

Earthworms are found all over the
globe, varying somewhat in size and
appearance in different localities. In
Cape Colony worms measure five or
six feet in length when fully extended.
The earthworm has a mouth without
teeth, but no eyes, as Nature provides
no useless members for her subjects,
and as the worm lives underground
in total darkness eyes would be of no
value.

If you examine a worm carefully
you will notice that one end is sharp
and pointed, while the other is wide
and flat, and that the little animal is
composed of a series of rings. The
pointed end is the head, near which
the heart, intestines and organs of re-
production are located and can be dis-
tinguished by rings of light color lar-
ger than the rest of the body, about
seven to fourteen segments from the
head. The flat end is the tail. Rub
the worm gently with the finger
from head to tail and it will feel soft
and smooth, but rub it from tail to
head and it will be found quite rough
and covered with bristling spines that
catch the finger as it passes over the
body. In boring, the pointed head is
insinuated between the particles of
earth, penetrating like a wedge; the
hinder parts are then drawn forward
by shortening the body, which swells
out the anterior or forward segments
and thus forcibly enlarge the passage
into which the head has already been
beaten thrust. When the body is drawn
up the head is held in position by the
numerous spines, that take a firm hold
upon the sides of the hole and pre-
vent any retrograde movement, the
head is again forced forward, and the
animal is able to advance with the
greatest apparent ease through sub-
stances which it would at first seem
utterly impossible for so helpless a
creature to penetrate.

The worm is peculiar in the respect
that it takes its food directly from the
earth. We all depend upon the earth
for food, but get the nourishment in
directly through vegetables or animals
that have lived upon vegetation. A
person may starve to death walking
upon the earth that supports all animal
life, but the worm extracts its
food right from the earth, and the un-
serviceable portions are ejected at the
mouth of the burrow; they also con-
sume decayed vegetable matter.

The burrowing of the worm is a
process exceedingly useful to the
gardener and agriculturist, loosening
up the soil so as to admit both air and
moisture. The worm is nocturnal in
its habits and inhabits moist soil, dy-
ing in a short time if exposed to the
sun's rays, but it avoids lands on which
water stands as well as hard, clayey
soils.

The eggs of worms, from which two
young generally appear, are deposited
in the soil and develop directly into
earthworms. Extreme cold it cannot
endure and during the winter sinks
below the frost line and with several
companions remains coiled up until
the advent of spring.

Serviceable as the worm is, it consti-
tutes the food of many birds; the mole
pursues it unceasingly, fish and frogs
eat it, and even the great water beetle
devours it.

A curious fact in regard to the worm
is that if divided in the middle the
piece bearing the head will form a new
tail and soon show little signs of in-
jury, but if the division be made near
the head the body will live and renew
the head, and some species in which
the reproductive power is sufficiently
great, reproduce a new head and body
from a small portion of the original.

The worm travels quite rapidly over
the ground by pushing the head for-
ward, extending the body to its great-
est length and then contracting, thus
drawing the rear portion forward.
While they have no eyes, worms are
very sensitive. The next one you see
near its hole approach carefully and
see how quickly it will escape before
you reach it.—The Humane Alliance.

THE PROPOSED CONSTITU-
TIONAL AMENDMENT.

Believing that no more important
measure has been before the people of
North Carolina for a score of years, we
give in full herewith the proposed Con-
stitutional amendment, which we ex-
pect to keep standing until the election
in August of next year. It is not nec-
essary for us to say that it should be
carefully considered and that the voter
should not allow prejudice to influence
him in deciding whether or not he will
support it. The act of the Legislature
reads as follows:

The General Assembly of North Caro-
lina do enact:

That article VI of the Constitution
of North Carolina be, and the same is
hereby abrogated and in lieu thereof
shall be substituted the following ar-
ticle of said Constitution:

ARTICLE VI.

SUFFRAGE AND ELIGIBILITY OF OFFICE—
QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR.

(Section 1) Every male person born
in the United States and every male
person who has been naturalized, 21
years of age and possessing the quali-
fications set out in this article, shall be
entitled to vote at any election by the
people in the State, except as herein
otherwise provided.

(Section 2) He shall have resided in
the State of North Carolina for 2 years,
in the county six months, and in the
precinct, ward or other election district
in which he offers to vote, four months
next preceding the election: Provided,
That removal from one precinct, ward
or other election district, to another in
the same county, shall not operate to
deprive any person of the right to vote
in the precinct, ward or other election
district, from which he has removed
until four months after such removal.
No person who has been convicted of
or who has confessed his guilt in open
court upon indictment, of any crime,
the punishment of which now is or
may hereafter be, imprisonment in the
State prison, shall be permitted to vote
unless the said person shall be first re-
stored to citizenship in the manner
prescribed by law.

(Section 3) Every person offering to
vote shall be at the time a legally regis-
tered voter as herein prescribed and in
the manner hereafter provided by law,
and the General Assembly of North
Carolina shall enact general registra-
tion laws to carry into effect the pro-
visions of this article.

(Section 4) Every person presenting
himself for registration shall be able
to read and write any section of the
Constitution in the English language,
and before he shall be entitled to vote
he shall have paid on or before the
first day of March of the year in which
he proposes to vote his poll tax as pre-
scribed by law for the previous year.
Poll taxes shall be a lien only on as-
sessed property, and no process shall
issue to enforce the collection of the
same except against assessed property.

(Section 5) No male person, who was
on January 1, 1867, or at any time
prior thereto, entitled to vote under the
laws of any State in the United States
wherein he then resided, and no lineal
descendant of any such person, shall be
denied the right to register and vote
at any election in this State by reason
of his failure to possess the educational
qualification prescribed in section 4 of
this Article: Provided, He shall have
registered in accordance with the terms
of this Section prior to December 1,
1908. The General Assembly shall
provide for a permanent record of all
persons who register under this section
on or before November 1, 1908, and
all such persons shall be entitled to
register and vote in all elections by the
people in this State unless disqualified
under section 2 of this article: Pro-
vided such persons shall have paid
their poll tax as required by law.

(Section 6) All elections by the people
shall be by ballot, and all elections by
the General Assembly shall be viva
voce.

Section 7. Every voter in North Caro-
lina, except as in this Article disquali-
fied, shall be eligible to office, but be-
fore entering upon the duties of the
office he shall take and subscribe the
following oath: "I, _____, do so-
lemnly swear (or affirm) that I will sup-
port and maintain the Constitution and
laws of the United States and the Con-
stitution and laws of North Carolina,
not inconsistent therewith, and that I
will faithfully discharge the duties of
my office as _____. So help me
God."

(Section 8) The following classes of
persons shall be disqualified for office:
First, all persons who deny the being
of Almighty God. Second, all persons
who shall have been convicted, or con-
fessed their guilt on indictment pend-
ing, and whether sentenced or not, or
under judgment suspended, of any
treason or felony, or of any other crime
for which the punishment may be im-
prisonment in the penitentiary, since
becoming citizens of the United States,
or of corruption and malpractice in
office, unless such person shall be re-
stored to the right of citizenship in a
manner prescribed by law.

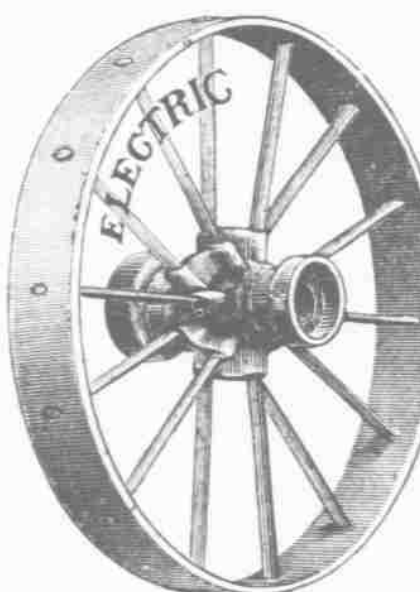
Section 2. That all of the provisions
of the Constitution relating to suffrage,

registration and elections, as contained
in this act, amending the Constitu-
tion, shall go into effect on the first day
of July, 1902, if a majority of the qual-
ified voters of the State so declare at
the next general election.

Section 3. This amendment shall be
submitted at the next general election
to the qualified voters of the State, in
the same manner and under the same
rules and regulations as is provided in
the law regulating general elections
in this State, and in force May 1st,
1899, and at said election those persons
desiring to vote for such amendment
shall cast a written or printed ballot
with the words "For Suffrage Amend-
ment" thereon; and those with a con-
trary opinion shall cast a written or
printed ballot with the words "Against
Suffrage Amendment" thereon.

Section 4. The said election shall be
held and the votes returned, compared,
counted and canvassed, and the result
announced, under the same rules and
regulations as are in force for return-
ing, comparing, counting and canvass-
ing the votes for members of the Gen-
eral Assembly, May 1st, 1899, and if a
majority of the votes cast are in favor
of the said amendment, it shall be the
duty of the Governor of the State to
certify said amendment under the seal
of the State to the Secretary of State,
who shall enroll the said amendment
so certified among the permanent re-
cords of his office.

Section 5. This act shall be in force
from and after its ratification.



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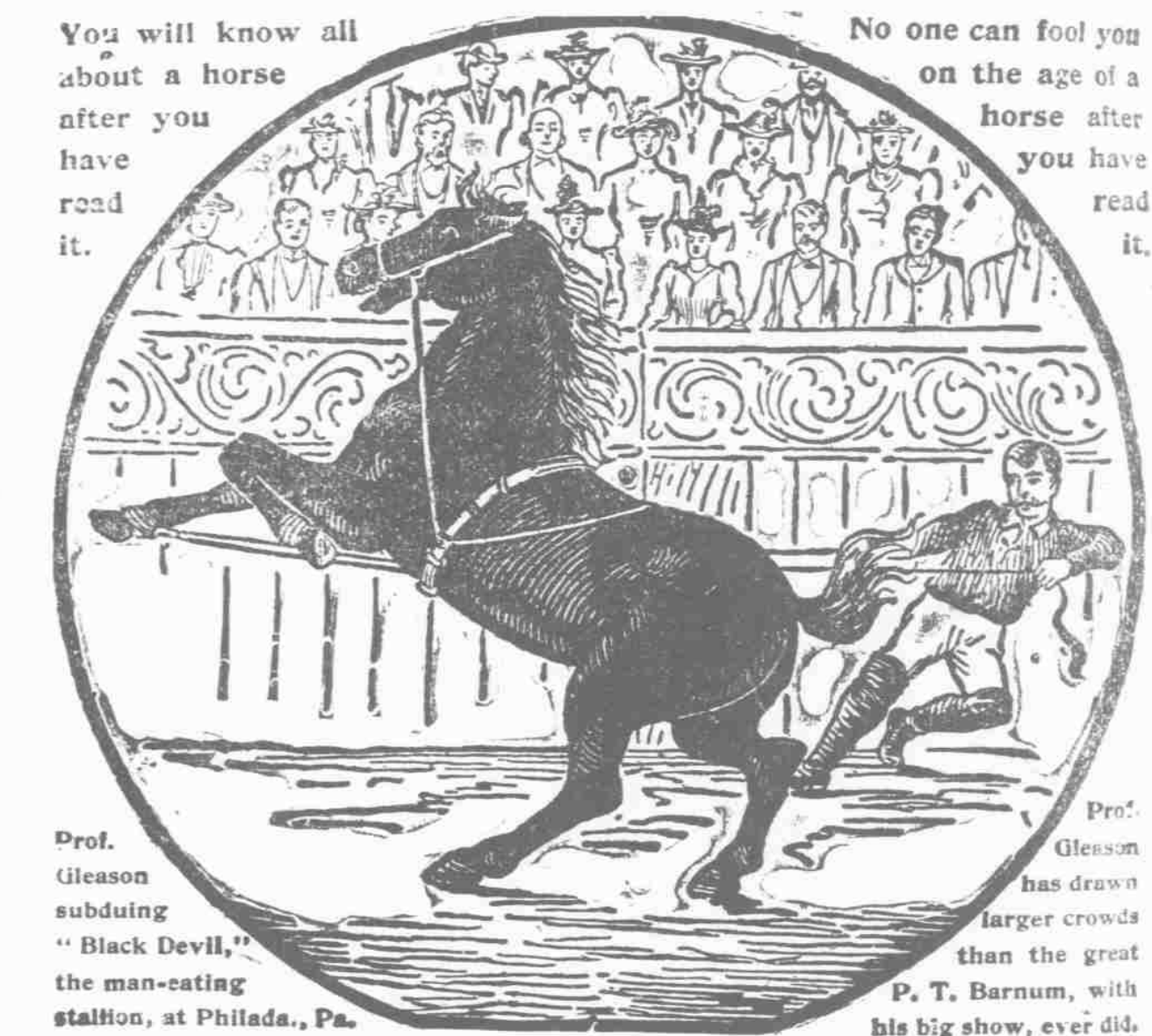
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